Powell

Mr. Thos. F. Conley, FOIA Center
U.S.Army Intelligence Agency
Ft. Meade, Md. 20755

Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
6/22/77
IACI-CAF FPA-460 PA 77-137

Dear Mr. Conley,

There is much in your letter of June 21 I appreciate. There are also meanings in it I suggest the Army might want to appreciate.

Your letter opens with references that include referrals to you but not my last letter.

While it is generally awkward for me to consult my files today it is impossible. If I have not told you I suffered acute thrombophlebitis in both legs and thighs. There has been permanent damage, permanent limitation. This always includes bending and squatting. For the past several days I've also had ambulatory difficulties. This means I cannot cite names and dates in some cases. While I'm also getting old and tired and my memory is not what it was I believe it has not just failed me.

While I have no idea what is included in the files allegedly searched "under the various titles" in your 2. as "relating th the John F. Kennedy assassination" I have been told before " that no Army intelligence investigative records exist." (My request was not limited to "Army intelligence investigative records," whatever this may encompass.)

You do not say that a) there never were any or b) they have been destroyed. But then this crime that negated an entire system of society is to you an "incident" and JFK is not once identified or described as a President. Nonetheless your letter simply is not truthful when you refer to "the existence of any records relating to the incident" in saying there are none. There are. The records of destruction do relate. Years ago when I was told of this destruction (which I believe was not of all copies) I asked for and have not been given the records of the alleged destruction.

Impossible as it is to believe that the Army would destroy any records in any way relating to an event like a Presidential assassination, what am I to believe that any such destruction was clearly also illegal? There was an executive order requiring the transfer of all records to the National Archives.

If I understand your abbreviations and bureaucratic structure correctly the index used includes only your own investigations. If we assume that this would not include the presence of one of your agents at the scene of the crime and actually confined for a while by the police perhaps that can explain your lack of citation of any record relating to Mr. Powell, whether of an existing or a destroyed record. (You have sent no record of destruction, which is a record within my requests.) But I do not believe we can assume that this index includes records of other origin, also included within my requests. It also does not include what is not indexed in DCII and may be kept elsewhere. Like say Chicago, Minneapolis or Baltimore if not also Dallas.

I believe this constitutes less than a definitive response to any of my requests, including under PA.

In your 3. you refer correctly to correspondence of 1971 and 1972, if incompletely and limited to the non-responsive and the self-serving. In this you also identify my requests as under the 1966 Act, which according to the Attorney General's Memorandum on it, the official interpretation of what it required of all agencies. I believe the current Act imposed the same obligation but you owe me responsibilities under the 1966 Act. These included either obtaining relevant records for other sources or referring my request to those sources. In this paragraph you limit yourself to James Powell. In 4. you refer to the OASD letter of 5/31 to me but not to my response or correction. You then say that the "history records" of Mr. Powell's 112th Intelligence Corps were searched and that they "revealed no information relating the the assassination." Perhaps by this you also mean to include no record of any FBI investigation, no record of any transferral of any kind of record, no receipt of any kind as well as that Army Intelligence was totally indifferent when its agent was within the building from which the crime is officially stated to have

been committed and had his camera with him while the building was sealed off and being searched.

There is, of course, the alternative that it hid and then destroyed any records.

About the assassination of its own Commander-in-Chief!

If this is true it certainly should be known, to the Congress and to the people.

When I first made these requests it became impossible for me to persists against what I regard as stonewalling and typical stonewalling. I then said nothing but I did distribute copies of what I had been sent referring to the destruction of records, as I will also do with this correspondence.

I would prefer to believe that those conducting the searches for you have not searched all available and known sources that to believe the Army had so little regard for either such a crime or its own President/Commander-in-Chief. I would also like to hope that the records that did exist may still be tracked down and delivered.

I do not believe my request relating to Mr. Powell and his picture(s) was limited Army/ to/"investigative records." I did not make this request of the Army alone. I do believe that the law required the Army to inquire where else it knew there were relevant record, that it did not and that it still owes this to me under the Act(s). I think it worth noting that from about 1968 on there has been total official non-compliance with these requests.

Despite the kind of life I have led since the President was assassinated, despite what I have learned of official behavior I would once have believe impossible; I am shocked that you can write me in language that can be taken as disparaging to the President; that you describe this most monstrous of crimes as no more than an "incident;" that you are less than forthright in not including either any reference to the alleged destruction of records or proof of such destruction; and that anyone reading your letter would be led to believe that there never was any Army record that was in any way relevant.

Should I not also be shocked that the Army violated an executive order designed to prevent the possibility of precisely that which stuns me?

I certainly would welcome any explanations other than those that you may provide. I would also appreciate compliance with my FA request. From the records I have already obtained not from the Army there is no doubt it had records on me. As I believe I told you, I was a soldier, was cleared on security and then was given further clearance to handle classified materials. I know there now are supposed to be no records on me at the St. Louis center but I am confident the memory hole did not swallow all.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg